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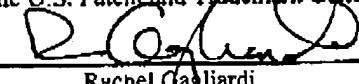
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Alan Shluzas et al. Confirmation No.: 3377
 Serial No.: 10/658,736 Examiner: Nicholas W. Woodall
 Filing Date: September 9, 2003 Group Art Unit: 3775
 Docket No.: 1291.1138101 Customer No.: 33469
 For: METHOD AND APPARATUSES FOR TREATING THE SPINE THROUGH
 AN ACCESS DEVICE

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENTCERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted
 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


 Rachel Cagliardi

April 3, 2009

Date

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed January 5, 2009, with a shortened statutory period set to expire on April 5, 2009.

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

Please consider the following amendments and/or remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.